many, and his own books, *Revolt in the Desert,* and later *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom,* were much read and discussed.

His modesty and delight in fame pulling him in opposite directions; his passion for publicity which, like Greta Garbo's, took the extremely effective form of ostentatiously shunning it; his refusal of important posts and insistence on joining the Air Force as an aircraftsman under an assumed name, thereby attracting more attention to himself than any colonial administrator, however successful: his poverty which, as Sir Ronald Storrs has pointed out,[27] did not prevent him from indulging in expensive luxuries like speed-boats; his achievements, so remarkable, yet coming to nothing, bearing no fruit; his reputation for endurance and feats of strength combined with a slight physique, an unathletic, unhearty appearance—all this fitted him to be the hero of the years during which all desire to hang the Kaiser had gone and a desire to hang Hitler not yet manifested itself. Mr. Stephen Spender provided the Left Book Club with a statement of his political faith called *Forward from Liberalism.* In the same way, one of the many books on T. E. Lawrence might have been entitled *forward from Kipling.*

The hero provides a pattern after which many aspire. His influence seeps down, evoking remote imitations, dreams. He appears in many guises; in living men, and in imagined characters. An age may be known by its hero, its Rousseau or Byron or Walt Whitman. Even the dead are made to conform to his lineaments, furbished up to look like him. Thus Sir James

Barrie, shortly before his death, undertook the difficult task in his play *The Boy David* of presenting King David as a Prince Charming, a youthful soldier whose war^memoirs would have resembled Mr. Sassoon's. The enterprise defeated him. He was too old for it; his technique out-of-date, the right moment past. The early, not the late, Thirties was the time for it; before, not after, German rearmament. It was a pre-Hitler enterprise. Mr. Auden might have succeeded, stressing David's early proletarian sympathies when 'everyone that was in distress, and everyone

[27] In *Orientations**